

December 16, 2011

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility (LJCF) and Corizon lost a dedicated and loved employee. A memorial service was held for Addiction Recovery Specialist Liz Lee on the CLIFF unit.

Representatives from IDOC and Corizon were in attendance. Many ex-students of the CLIFF unit and past staff returned to the facility to honor her legacy. Liz Lee began her career with the Department in 1995 as a Substance Abuse Counselor at Logansport Juvenile. She left LJCF in 2005 to become the Director of the First CLIFF program at Miami Correctional Facility. She later returned to Logansport Juvenile to open the first juvenile CLIFF unit. In 2010, she joined the Corizon organization as an Addiction Recovery Specialist maintaining her loyal service to the CLIFF unit.

Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) School of Public and Environmental Affairs held a closing ceremony for fall 2011 participants of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at the Indiana Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). Composed of 20 outside students from IUPUI and 16 inside students from IREF, this was the largest group to date. The Inside-Out class met at IREF for 16 weeks during the fall semester where they focused on institutional corrections in the US, examined local, state and federal corrections programs, and explored current correctional policies and the possibilities for reform. IREF staff, IUPUI faculty, residents' family members, and members from the community attended the closing ceremony.

Offenders in the PLUS unit at the Correctional Industrial Facility donated \$250 to Helping Hands at East Elementary School in Pendleton, IN.

PEN Products Central Office staff held a food drive collecting over 130 lbs of food and hygiene products for the Westminster Neighborhood Ministries. Westminster serves the near eastside of Indianapolis by providing a weekly food pantry and holiday food baskets.

Eleven offenders and 30 children and guests spent a 'Holiday with Dad' at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Coordinated by James Bennett and Dwaine Short, graduates of the Inside Out Dads program engaged in one-on-one activities with their children amid the aroma of mouth watering holiday cookies, and the sounds of basketball, shuffle board, magic tricks and children's laughter.

New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) Chaplain Kathy Williams delivered the first ever AIDS Quilt to the AIDS Organization of Indianapolis which is part of the Greater Indianapolis Health Foundation. The quilt, measuring 18 feet wide & 20 feet long, was put together by offenders at NCCF.

Madison Correctional Facility held their semi-annual "Celebration of Achievement", recognizing over 150 women completing programs including Therapeutic Community, PLUS, GED, Cosmetology, US Department of Labor Apprenticeships, College and Career Technical. Offender families attended the celebration.

Religious Volunteers from the Westville Correctional Facility provided offenders with Christmas greetings and home baked Christmas Cookies. The volunteers presented a Christmas worship service along with a dozen cookies for each of the 3,350 offenders-that is 40,200 cookies. For those offenders unable to attend the service, volunteers visited and distributed cookies on the housing units.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility held its year end community advisory board meeting. Twenty-two members were in attendance. Four new members attended representing Noble county surveyor's office, Noble County Purdue Extension (Master Gardner), Noble county convention and visitors' office and Pilot House, a local shelter. Staff and offenders collected six large boxes of canned and dry goods that were presented along with a check for \$113.50 to the Albion Food Bank

Poinsettias grown by offender students in the Pendleton Correctional Facility Vocational Horticulture program were delivered to area nursing homes.

Wabash Valley's Major Dusty Russell and Captain Amanda Pirtle helped make the Holiday special for 190 Knox County youngsters, taking part in the annual Shop with a Cop program. Five year olds Nevaeh and Ashlynn were able to pick out toys, games, coats, hats, gloves, AND meet Santa! The WVCF PLUS Unit donated \$200 to the campaign!

Five Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility residents recently completed work on a Victorian three-story dollhouse, complete with a family of dolls, new furniture for each room, a wraparound porch, carpeted rooms and hardwood floors, and donated it to Daystar Childcare Ministry, Englewood Christian Church. The residents are participants in the facility's recreation department, which obtains dollhouse kits and other items to donate to area charities.

PEN Products held its annual Board of Directors meeting at the Miami Correctional Facility on December 14, 2011. The Board toured the seven industry operations with over 500 offenders working and visiting the new Career Dorm piloted at the Miami Correctional Facility.